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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/575,851	07/13/2006	Ian George	1030705-000191	5153
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EXAMINER BELLAMY, TAMIKOD				
ART UNIT 2856		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 03/31/2008		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ADIPFDD@bipc.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/575,851

Applicant(s)

GEORGE ET AL.

Examiner

TAMIKO D. BELLAMY

Art Unit

2856

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/14/06
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1-4 are objected to because of the following informalities:
 - a. Claim 1, line 7, change "the values of the parameters" to --the faults wherein the parameters characterize the ranges--.
 - b. Claim 1, lines 7-8, change "the distribution of faults in the fabric is determined for categories in the fabric" to --each category of fault in the fabric the distribution of faults in the fabric is determined--.
2. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Note: The rejection is made to the examiner's understanding of the invention based on the current claims

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Meier et al. (6,987,867).

Re claim 1, Meier et al. discloses processing signals obtained from scanning textile fabrics, wherein values for preselected parameters (e.g., length, width, intensity, color) are derived from the signals (Col. 2, lines 2-8; Col. 4, lines 21-29). Meier et al.

discloses that limit values serve to determine faults in the fabric are predetermined (Col. 4, lines 25-29). As depicted in figs.3 and 4, Meier et al. discloses value ranges (e.g., See **fig. 3 axes (13)**, where class/category I is between 0-2.5 cm in length, class I is between 2.5 cm -5 cm in length, etc.) (Col. 2, lines 48-64). Meier et al. discloses distribution of the faults is determined for categories of the fault in the fabric (Col. 3, lines 7-34). Meier et al. discloses as a function of category determined and the distribution of faults in the fabric, an action (e.g., removing or marking faults) is performed in connection with the fabric (Col. 4, lines 38-45; Col. 5, lines 44-54).

Re claim 2, Meier et al. discloses the action on the fabric is selected from a group including discarding/removing the faults, and marking the faults (Col. 3, line 27; Col. 5, lines 44-54).

Re claim 3, Meier et al. discloses the categories of the faults in the fabric are determined from the group including warp faults, weft faults, area faults and edge faults (Col. 3, lines 53-59; Col. 5, lines 52-54).

Re claim 4, Meier et al. discloses the parameters are derived from a group including at least length, width, contrast, and intensity (Col. 5, lines 33-43).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure.

The following patents are cited to further show the state of art with respect to defining categories of faults in fabric (col. 5, lines 49-60) :

U.S. Pat. No. (4,075,498) as to Takasuka et al.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TAMIKO D. BELLAMY whose telephone number is (571)272-2190. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron Williams can be reached on (571) 272-2208. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Tamiko Bellamy

/TB/

March 21, 2008

/Hezron Williams/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2856